

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

February 28, 2008

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EAU CLAIRE MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Robert J. Hinterberg, 52, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was sentenced on February 26 by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 97 months in prison for possessing child pornography. Hinterberg pleaded guilty to this charge on December 7, 2007.

The charge against Hinterberg stemmed from a complaint that he was providing drugs and alcohol to minors. Following the execution of a search warrant at Hinterberg's residence, police found hundreds of images of child pornography on his computers, including videos of very young children being sexually assaulted.

Hinterberg's lengthy sentence was based on the large number of images he possessed, the young age of the children in the images and the violence depicted in the images and videos. Judge Crabb stated that her main concern was protecting the community from Hinterberg. Judge Crabb also imposed a life term of supervised release following Hinterberg's prison sentence.

The charge against Hinterberg were the result of an investigation conducted by the Eau Claire Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

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